

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL  
BRUCE ANTHONY CASELLA

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 8, 2003*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Bruce Anthony Casella, who will be appointed as Brigadier General in the Army Reserve and is an individual of great distinction, and we join with family and friends in honoring his remarkable achievements and expressing pride in this recognition that has been afforded to him;

Whereas, Bruce is a remarkable individual who has devoted his life to serve his country and to proudly protect the citizens of the United States and his unyielding energy and passionate spirit render him a key member of his community and a vital resource to our country;

Whereas, since his graduation from Colfax High School, where he graduated second in his class and lettered in Football and Track, Bruce has worked in varying capacities, providing crucial support to the military community and from his appointment to West Point by Congressman Harold Johnson, where he graduated with honors and received a B.S. degree in engineering and the rank of First Lieutenant, to his tours in Germany and Korea as a regular Army Captain, he has fought tirelessly for our country and its people through his contributions to the management and administration of the U.S. Army;

Whereas, in addition to these contributions, Bruce has received Master of Science degrees in Electrical Engineering and Systems Management and currently works for Agile Communications, Inc. as the Principal Systems Architect and his specific efforts are focused on providing information to the Army on system engineering, communications, networking, and modeling and simulations;

Whereas, I join today with his wife, Catherine, his daughter, Heather, and his sister, Paula, in their joy at this wonderful honor he will receive, knowing he is an inspiration to our country and a patriot in every sense of the word: Now, therefore be it

*Resolved*, Mr. Speaker, that we salute Bruce Anthony Casella and express admiration he will receive this wonderful and well-deserved honor and hope that others may recognize the immense service he has provided for the people of the United States.

HONORING LEROY RADTKE, JR.

**HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 8, 2003*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to bring to the attention of our colleagues a true American hero who was honored in my congressional district recently.

Private First Class LeRoy Radtke, Jr. served our country with honor and dignity. He enlisted in the Marine Corps when he was 20 years old. He did so because he loved his country and he loved the Corps. He was proud to be a Marine and lived his life by a code that only Marines truly understand. He died saving a

member of his unit during a firefight in Vietnam. He was, in the proudest tradition of the Marines, ever faithful to his country and the Corps.

PFC Radtke left America as a young man with many hopes, dreams, and plans for the future. And although most of those plans went unfulfilled, he died being a soldier and fighting for the country he loved. PFC Radtke also left behind a family who loved him and who still grieves his loss. His mother, Dorothy, his sister, Peggy, and his brother, Karl, attended a ceremony this past weekend to add PFC Radtke's name to a memorial of veterans who died defending our country. This memorial, located in New Port Richey in my congressional district, stands as a lasting tribute to the brave men from Pasco County who gave their lives to guard our freedom.

People often forget that the families of our men and women in uniform make many sacrifices while their loved ones are worlds away fighting for us. This is especially true for families of Vietnam veterans. Many veterans of the Vietnam War returned home not to the admiration and reverence they deserved, but to scorn and ridicule from those who opposed the policies of our nation's leaders. They deserved much better. So did the families of those soldiers who did not return safely.

I am humbled to show my gratitude, and that of the House of Representatives, to PFC Radtke and his family. I hope these words will remind them that our country endures only because of people like PFC LeRoy Radtke. America is forever indebted to him. I hope that this small gesture will comfort them when they think of his loss that summer thirty-six years ago.

May God bless his family and may He continue to watch over the United States of America.

REMARKS AT TRUMAN PRESIDENTIAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 8, 2003*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege to deliver a few remarks at the opening ceremony of the new Korean War exhibit at the Truman Presidential Museum and Library in Independence, Missouri. My remarks are set forth as follows:

CONFLICT AND CONSEQUENCE: THE KOREAN WAR AND ITS UNSETTLED LEGACY

Thank you for inviting me to be with you today for the opening ceremonies of this important new exhibit at the Truman Library. I am humbled to be here, particularly as we honor those who served our country so nobly during the Korean conflict.

This library is a monument to the legacy and achievements of Harry S. Truman and we are blessed to have this renowned resource here in Independence. The Truman Library, and all of our Presidential libraries, are dedicated to the preservation of our nation's historical heritage, as repositories of Presidential papers and memorabilia. As far as I'm concerned, the mission of this Library—particularly its educational function—has never been more important, and the exhibit the Library opens to the public today is especially timely.

I have to admit, and I'm sure this will come as no surprise to anyone, that I am

very sentimental about one of the artifacts on display in this exhibition. You see, my father, Ike Skelton III, was an attorney in Lafayette County and became a friend of Truman's when they met on September 17, 1928. The occasion was the dedication of the Pioneer Mother Statue—the Madonna of the Trail—located in my hometown of Lexington, Missouri.

They kept up this acquaintance, corresponding periodically, so it seems right in character that my father, a fellow veteran of World War One who served on the USS *Missouri*, sent a telegram to President Truman after the President decided to fire General Douglas MacArthur, letting him know that he agreed with the decision and pledging his continued support and that of Truman's friends in Lafayette County.

This momentous decision—reaffirming the supremacy of civilian control of the military—is full of the drama that makes our history fascinating. And I hope that for others who see this document, this personal note to the President from one of his Missouri friends, it will be meaningful as well.

I know that with the library professionals and historians in the audience I am preaching to the choir, but I am a big believer in the power of history, as was Harry Truman. Truman was an avid reader and student of history. My friend, the late Congressman Fred Schwengel, told me about meeting Senator Truman in 1935 while Schwengel was a college student in Missouri. Truman advised him that to be a good American, "...you should know your history."

That story is consistent with my experience. I well remember taking a group of grade school students to visit the Truman Library in 1963, and though President Truman was of advanced age, he spoke to them in the library auditorium about American history and the Constitution. He wanted young people to learn as much as they could about America.

I do my best to encourage people, particularly young people, to study history. I have embarked on a school visit program I call "History Matters", which gives me the chance to talk about the importance of history whenever I visit schools. I also recently issued a 50-book national security reading list, which is heavy on biographies and histories, including the books I recommend to Members of Congress, military officers, and anyone interested in learning about character, leadership, and military art.

Why do I believe it is so important to keep up our efforts to promote a broad knowledge of history? Let me share this with you for a little perspective. The college student interns who are working in my office this summer were only about 8 years old in 1989 when we witnessed the end of the Cold War with the fall of the Berlin Wall. This major event, as well as the many other significant events and crisis points of the Cold War, are far removed from them. By no fault of their own, they did not experience these events the way many of us did.

It took 50 years of national commitment to see the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc. But in spite of the cessation of hostilities in Korea in 1953, U.S. troops still deploy to South Korea to deter invasion from the North. The totalitarian regime of North Korea continues to rattle sabers and threaten not only the future of peace on the peninsula but peace in the region and the world.

Today's college students have lived long enough to experience missile threats from North Korea, including nuclear threats. In spite of the prosperity of the South, and in spite of the passage of more than 50 years, many of the issues splitting the Korean Peninsula are still with us. This exhibit, which